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FROM: USIS LONDON

TO: USIA WASHINGTON

MESSAGE NO. 29

REF:

DATE: September 22, 1966

SUBJECT: Rebuttal to Two Books Critical of Warren Commission Findings

AGENCY USE

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Dennis Slawson
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Two British publishers will bring out books within the week which are critical of the Warren Commission findings in the assassination of President Kennedy. The books are Mark Lane's "Rush to Judgment" published by The Bodley Head and Edward Jay Epstein's "Inquest" published by the Viking Press. Publication dates are September 22 for the Lane book and September 27 for Epstein's.

When the post first learned that the books were to be published here (See FM 17, dated August 17, 1966), steps were taken to mitigate their impact. Among these steps was an approach by the Cultural Attache, Dr. Edward D. Myers, to Professor Arthur L. Goodhart suggesting that he might be interested in preparing reviews rebutting the criticisms contained in the books. Professor Goodhart was selected because he is one of Britain's most respected legal authorities, having been, before his retirement, Professor of Law and Master of University College Oxford. Professor Goodhart is a member of the U. K. - U. S. Educational Commission and, before going to Oxford, was Professor of Law at Cambridge, Yale and Harvard Universities.

Professor Goodhart agreed to undertake the project. His review of the two books will appear this Sunday, September 25, in the Sunday Telegraph. Copies of his review, in his own handwriting, are enclosed.

It is hoped that the review, appearing in one of England's leading papers almost simultaneously with the two books, will have some effect in preventing an uncritical acceptance of their adverse "evidence."

Norman P. Scott
Norman P. Scott
Acting Public Affairs Officer

Enclosures (as stated) -5 copies

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